

AMENDMENTS

TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph of the application on page 1, after the heading "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS," with the following amended paragraph, as follows:

- - This application is a divisional of ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/937,236, filed on December 26, 2001, now issued United States Patent No. 6,617,163, which is a U. S. national stage filing of International Patent Application Ser. No. PCT/FR00/00713, filed March 22, 2000, which claims priority to French Patent Appl. Ser. No. 99/03,701, filed March 22, 1999, the contents of which are incorporated herein in their entireties. - -